Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A system to enhance safety of computer file distribution comprising:

(1) a computer network;

(2) a server computer connected to said computer network;

(3) one or more electronic records stored in said server computer wherein each record:

(a) contains information about a particular file, and

(b) can be retrieved as a web page when a URL containing a hash value computed from said particular file using a one-way hash function is presented to said server computer; and

(4) at least one user terminal also coupled to the computer network, the user terminal operable to compute the hash value of a the particular file using said one-way hash function, and then use a URL containing this the hash value to retrieve from said server computer the electronic record a web page that contains information about the file.

2.   (Currently Amended) A system to enhance safety of computer file distribution comprising:

(1) a computer network;

(2) a server computer connected to said computer network;

(3) one or more electronic records stored in said server computer, wherein each record:

(a) includes information about a particular file and is indexed by a hash value computed from the particular file; and

(4) at least one user terminal connected to the computer network, the user terminal operable to verify the authenticity of a particular file, including

(a) computing the hash value of the particular file; and

(b) retrieving from the server computer ~~the electronic record~~ a web page that contains information about the particular file, including submitting a URL containing the computed hash to the server computer.

3.   (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the server computer is operable to hash using a one-way hashing function the particular file and store the hash value in the associated record.

4.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2 wherein the ~~electronic records~~ web page includes a signature produced by an authenticating agent associated with the particular file and wherein the step of retrieving the ~~electronic record~~ web page includes retrieving the signature.

5.   (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the authenticating agent is the author of the particular file.

6.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2 wherein the ~~electronic records~~ web page includes signature data produced when validating a signature associated with the particular file and wherein the step of retrieving the ~~electronic record~~ web page includes retrieving the signature data.

7.   (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the particular file is a computer program.

8.   (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the particular file is a data file.

9.   (Currently Amended) A system to enhance safety of computer file distribution over a computer network comprising:

a server computer connected to the computer network and accessible by computer network clients, the server computer including

one or more electronic records wherein each electronic record includes information about a particular file and is indexed by a hash value computed from the particular file; and

means for responding to client requests for information concerning a first file, the client requests including a URL containing a hash value computed from the first file, the means for responding operable to retrieve an appropriate electronic record associated with the first file and forward the information as a web page to a requesting client computer.

10.   (Currently Amended) A system to enhance safety of computer file distribution over a computer network comprising:

at least one user terminal connected to the computer network, the user terminal operable to verify the authenticity of a particular file, including

(a) computing the hash value of the particular file; and

(b) retrieving from a server computer an electronic record a web page that contains information about the particular file, including submitting a URL containing the computed hash to the server computer.

11.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8 10 wherein the user terminal is operable to display the information to the user terminal operator.

12.   (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing safety of computer file distribution comprising:

(1) storing one or more electronic records in a server computer wherein each electronic record:

————(a) includes information about a particular file and is indexed by a hash value computed from the particular file;

(2) identifying a first file for authentication;

(3) computing the hash value of the first file; and

(4) retrieving from the server computer ~~the electronic record~~ a web page that contains

information about the first file, including submitting a URL containing the computed

hash to the server computer.